

# WAR NOVEL: WRITTEN EXAM

Read the following quotations from the war novels we read. Choose ONE of the quotations and write TWO paragraphs.



It is so short and jumbled and jangled, Sam, because there is nothing intelligent to say about a massacre. Everybody is supposed to be dead, to never say anything or want anything ever again. Everything is supposed to be very quiet after a massacre, and it always is, except for the birds. And what do the birds say? All there is to say about a massacre, things like "Poo-tee-weet?"

***Slaughterhouse Five*, Kurt Vonnegut**

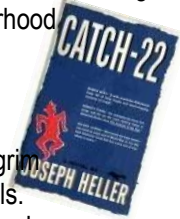
That was what remained: a few stupid war stories, hackneyed and unprofound. Even the lessons were commonplace. It hurts to be shot. Dead men are heavy. Don't seek trouble, it'll find you soon enough. You hear the shot that gets you. Scared to death on the field of battle. Life after death. These were hard lessons, true, but they were lessons of ignorance; ignorant men, trite truths. What remained was simple events . . . stories that began and ended without transition. No developing drama or tension or direction. No order.

***Going After Cacciato*, Tim O'Brien**



. . . [Y]ou felt that you were taking part in a crusade. . . . [It] would be as difficult and embarrassing to speak about as a religious experience and yet it was authentic. . . . It gave you a part in something that you could believe in wholly and completely and in which you felt an absolute brotherhood with the others who were engaged in it.

***The Killer Angels*, Michael Shaara**



Yossarian was cold, too, and shivering uncontrollably . . . as he gazed down despondently at the grimy secret Snowden had spilled all over the messy floor. It was easy to read the message in his entrails. Man was matter, that was Snowden's secret. Drop him out a window and he'll fall. Set fire to him and he'll burn. Bury him and he'll rot, like other kinds of garbage. That was Snowden's secret.

***Catch 22*, Joseph Heller**



I was really thinking of killing him, wiping him off the earth, and it was then I realized for the first time that if it was necessary to kill them, then I would kill them, and something at the same time said: you cannot be utterly right.

***For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Ernest Hemingway**

**PARAGRAPH ONE:** Explain how this quote fits an event, character, or literal observation of a character in your novel. In other words, what is a quick and obvious connection between this quotation and your novel (something that is established as a fact of the novel)? NOTE: If you choose the quote actually from your novel, say something more than "it's in the same book, by the same author"

**PARAGRAPH TWO:** Explain how this quote fits a theme, symbol, or important abstract concept perpetuated by the book. In other words, what connects this quotation to your novel on an interpretive, analytical level (something that is just your interpretation, not established fact)?

## IMPORTANT TO KNOW:

You may choose any of the quotes—not just the one from your novel.

You must use the same quote for both paragraphs.

The two paragraphs do NOT need an introduction or transition (it's not an essay!).

Write with your best ideas, paragraph organization skills, word choice, sentence fluency, and mechanics. Establish and keep a formal, academic voice, assuming your audience is well-read, interested in literature, and bright.